

# Sanctuary Advisory Council Facts 2005/2006

- Sanctuary Advisory Councils are community-based advisory groups established to provide advice to the manager of a national marine sanctuary. There are almost 400 people (230 members and 160 alternates) serving on Advisory Councils.
- Three new Advisory Councils were established in 2005. All fourteen sites in the sanctuary system now have an Advisory Council. The oldest Advisory Council was created in 1990.
- Advisory Councils provide advice about everything in sanctuary operations and projects, including education and outreach, research and science, regulations and enforcement, and management planning. They are particularly critical in helping a sanctuary during its designation or management plan review process.
- Advisory Councils create working groups and subcommittees to help them get their work done. In 2005, there were more than two dozen of these groups. The most common working groups and subcommittees are those for conservation, education, and research. Often working groups are created to help address a specific issues or projects, and are disbanded after their missions have been accomplished.
- In 2005, nearly 600 individuals from all walks of life served their communities and sanctuary as members of Advisory Councils and their working groups and subcommittees, including fishermen, divers, teachers, boaters, business people, activists, protected area managers, artists, scientists, and elected officials.
- Members of Advisory Councils and their working groups and subcommittees donated over 16,000 hours to the National Marine Sanctuary Program in 2005. That's worth nearly \$300,000 dollars and equal to about four full-time staff members. However, the true value of Advisory Councils must be measured by their ability to provide expertise on both the local community and sanctuary resources, strengthen connections with the community, and help build increased stewardship for sanctuary resources.
- The National Marine Sanctuary Program provides a great deal of support for Advisory Councils, including extensive staff time, per diem and travel expense, meeting venues and support, copying, printing, and, in some cases, listservs or other access to electronic communication.
- The fourteen Advisory Councils meet all year round. Once a year as well, the chairs of our Advisory Councils meet to discuss national program issues and projects. At the fifth meeting in February 2005, they discussed marine reserves, cruise ships discharges, and aquaculture in sanctuaries. The agenda for the sixth meeting in April 2006 includes fishing regulations, the effect of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals, and ocean energy development in marine sanctuaries.



For more information, please contact Karen Brubeck at [Karen.Brubeck@noaa.gov](mailto:Karen.Brubeck@noaa.gov)